

Arlington Historical Commission
Minutes for the Meeting of
Tuesday, 5 March 2019
Whittemore-Robbins House, 7:45p.m.

1. Call to Order: Commissioners Patrick Guthrie, Pamela Meister, Eric Stange, Dianne Schaefer, and Chair, JoAnn Robinson.
2. Review of minutes: Reviewed minutes from February 5, 2019. Approved as amended.
3. Communications Received:
 - a. Email communication from David Baldwin, Arlington Historic Preservationist, in support of preserving historic school buildings a design priority.
 - b. Message from Carl Wagner from Save Our Historic Arlington High School.
 - c. Message from Jeff Thielman regarding Arlington High School presentation
4. Reports of other Town Boards and Historical Organizations:
 - a. Arlington Preservation Fund (Guthrie, Schaefer)- Nothing to report.
 - b. Arlington Historical Society (Meister)- March 26, 2019 at the Masonic Hall at 7:30pm.
THE TULIP: A HISTORY with Ila Cox
From the foothills of the Himalayas, trace the journey of the handsome tulip that came to captivate Holland in the 16th century to the point that it created the economic phenomenon known as “Tulipmania.” Plant history intersecting with human culture is certainly colorful when it comes to the esteemed tulip.
 - c. Arlington Historic Districts Commission (Robinson)- Nothing to report.
 - d. Community Preservation Act Committee (Robinson)- Meeting held in February to vote on appropriation of funds. Discussion included plans to alter the approach to the uses of Spy Pond Field. This will become a community process.
 - e. Arlington Historic Resources Working Group (Schaefer, Robinson) – Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 18, 2019. Discuss what to do to continue to add to the Inventory.

Historical Commission FY 2019 Budget- Nothing to report.

5. Projects Proceeding under Hearings and Approvals:
 - a. 3-11 Lakeview Street 4/16 Schaefer/Robinson- Stop Work Order
 - b. 47 Mystic Lake Drive 9/16 Guthrie- Nothing to report.
 - c. 39 Winter Street 9/17-Preferentially Preserved- 1 year-demolition delay
 - d. 43 Winter Street 9/17-Preferentially Preserved- 1 year-demolition delay
 - e. 12 Schouler Court 11/17 1-year demolition delay.
 - f. 418 Massachusetts Avenue 11/17- Stange- Review decision letter.
 - g. 65 Hillside Avenue 1/18- Robinson- Nothing to report.
 - h. 36 Draper Avenue 4/18- Schaefer- Framed in insulation.

- i. 32 Kensington Road -5/18- Guthrie- Nothing to report.
- j. 81 Hillside Avenue- 9/18-Stange- Windows are in.
- k. 21 Teel Street-12/18- Guthrie- Nothing to report.
- l. 20 Belton Street- Stop Work Order 2/19 Stange- Continuing with work, but not completed.

6. Continuing Projects

- a. Whittemore Robbins House (and outbuildings)- Nothing to report.
- b. Arlington Civic Block Garden: Robinson – Planning grand opening in the spring.
- c. Education/Outreach: Robinson – Nothing to report.
- d. Historic House Markers: Request for House marker for 15 Village Lane from Beth Kass.
- e. Town Hall: Nothing to report.
- f. Web Site: Stange – New Inventory is now updated.

7. Discussion and Hearings:

7:50pm- Sign Hearing- 311 Broadway – The sign for Abbotts Frozen Custard was approved as presented with pictures.

8:00pm- Hearing- 17 Brantwood Road

Walter Abbott, owner; Lucy Gohman, designer; Michael Collins, builder; Eve Eisenberg, Architect; Michael Collins, builder and abutters: Susan Lutwak, Ken Maser, Anita Bar, Greg Butss. Also in attendance were John D. Leone and Bob Annese.

The plan presented is to demolish 17 Brantwood Road and to remove the garage to make room to complete new construction and then replace the garage. Plans, pictures and designs were shared with the Commission and abutters. Abutters commented on the change in height of the ridgeline which will be 16 feet taller than the current house. There were also questions regarding the retaining wall. Commissioner Guthrie moved that this house not be preferentially preserved and that it could be demolished. Four Commissioners voted in favor and one opposed the motion.

The monitor for this project will be JoAnn Robinson.

Hearing closed at 8:27pm.

8:30pm- Presentation by the Arlington High School Building Committee:

Superintendent Kathy Bodie, School Committee Member Jeff Thielman

Assistant Principal William McCarthy, Deputy Town Manager Sandy Pooler, John Cole, Principal Matthew Janger, and members of Save Our Historic Arlington High School- Carl Wagner and Elizabeth Terry

Members of the Arlington High School Building Project presented the key areas of the project

1. Project Overview

- a. Why we need a new High School
- b. The Arlington High School Facility Today
- c. A New Facility
- d. The New Arlington High School
- e. Building and Site Features
- f. Arlington High School Schematic Design

- g. Historic element reuse
- h. Central Spine Concept
- i. Renovation only- not an option
- j. Cost Factors
- k. Sustainability Goals
- l. Next steps- Time line

Following the Committees plan of action, Elizabeth Terry and Carl Wagner from Save Our Historic Arlington High School commented on the plans. Preservation of the historic façade and open space were areas of concern.

Chair JoAnn Robinson of Arlington Historical Commission explained that a vote had been made to add the Arlington High School to the Massachusetts Inventory. Patrick Guthrie has completed the architectural description. The document is partially completed and additional steps are needed to place it on the Inventory.

The presentation ended at 9:35pm

The Arlington Historical Commission adjourned at 9:58pm.

The next Arlington Historical Commission meeting will be April 2, 2019 at 7:45pm.

For the Arlington Historical Commission, Victoria Rose, Recording Secretary.